Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010200070001-6

The President's Daily Brief

7 December 1971

46

~~*Top Secret*~~ 50X1

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010200070001-6

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010200070001-6

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

7 December 1971

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

India is trying to win quickly in East Pakistan while fighting a holding action on the western front. *(Page 1)*

The North Vietnamese have captured Saravane in south Laos and appear to have set the stage for renewed action in the north. *(Page 3)* 50X1

Cambodian Prime Minister Lon Nol appears to be in serious political trouble. *(Page 4)*

Tokyo [redacted] Hanoi. *(Page 6)* 50X1

Japan's 1971 trade surplus may top $7 billion, the largest recorded by any country in 20 years. *(Page 7)*

[redacted] 50X1

Infiltration from North Vietnam is continuing at a rate roughly similar to that of last year. *(Page 8)*

[redacted] 50X1

[redacted] fedayeen [redacted] Syria. *(Page 8)* 50X1

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010200070001-6

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010200070001-6

50X1

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010200070001-6

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010200070001-6

INDIA-PAKISTAN

50X1

Indian forces have met stiff resistance at several points, but the Indians appear to be generally gaining ground and are not known to have suffered any significant setbacks. They have made sizable inroads in the northwestern portion of the province, and they claim to have captured or surrounded a number of important towns and key locations elsewhere.

This morning an Indian spokesman in New Delhi claimed Indian forces had reached the airfield at Jessore. The Pakistanis have indicated that they will try hard to prevent the loss of major centers such as Dacca or Jessore, but with India dominating air and sea routes, the Pakistani troops in the East have little hope of receiving supplies or reinforcements. They also have no apparent means of escaping from the province. Their resistance to India's advancing forces has probably been partly due to their fear of falling into the hands of the Bengali guerrillas, many of whom undoubtedly want revenge for Pakistani atrocities against the Bengali populace. the Indian Army is seeking to counter this problem by broadcasting to Pakistani troops that all prisoners will remain under Indian control and receive good treatment. East Pakistan's Biharis, a non-Bengali Muslim minority, are also in danger of Bengali reprisals because of the assistance many Biharis have given to the Pakistani Army.

50X1

On the India - West Pakistan front, Pakistani forces have advanced a few miles into Indian territory at several points, and may be planning stronger thrusts. The Indians in turn have made some encroachments in Sind Province, but they claim they are not seeking any permanent territorial gains in West Pakistan. Mrs. Gandhi has indicated that additional troops will be transferred to the western front once Indian objectives have been achieved in the East, but it is not clear whether the Indians then intend to increase their offensive efforts in the West.

In the air war, India has apparently established domination of the skies over East Pakistan. Pakistan continues to vie with the Indians for air superiority

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010200070001-6

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010200070001-6

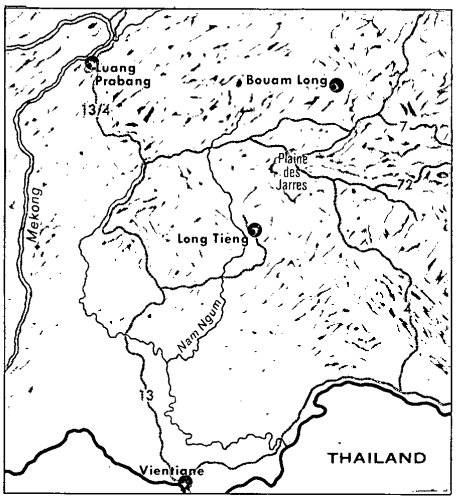
on the western front, however. India is bombing and strafing assorted military targets in and around Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad, while Pakistani planes yesterday attacked two air bases in western India and are said to have strafed Bombay.

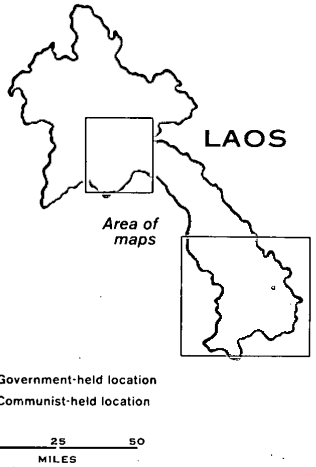
Meanwhile, a Canadian C-130 aircraft sent by the UN to evacuate personnel under UN auspices from Dacca was attacked and hit, apparently by Indian Air Force planes, as it approached its destination. The aircraft returned to Bangkok. The attack occurred during a period when the UN believed it had obtained a temporary cease-fire agreement for the evacuation from Dacca.

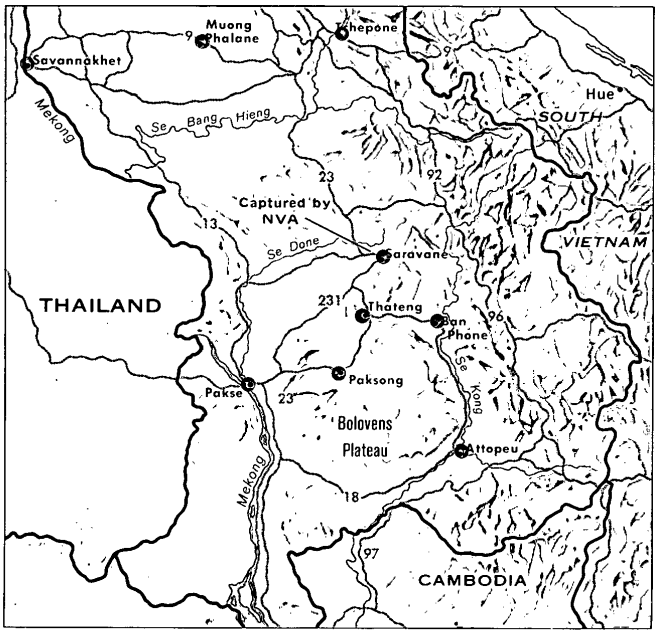
At the UN, with the USSR expected to continue blocking Security Council efforts to halt the fighting before East Pakistan falls, the Council has approved a US-backed proposal that the General Assembly take up the issue this morning. Any resolution adopted in the General Assembly would be merely a recommendation, however. China, meanwhile, is becoming more vehement in its condemnations of Indian and Soviet actions in the crisis, but there are no indications that Peking intends to depart from its policy of avoiding direct involvement. Chinese media now appear to be preparing their readers for an eventual Pakistani defeat.

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010200070001-6

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010200070001-6







552226 12-71 CIA

50X1

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010200070001-6

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010200070001-6

LAOS

A North Vietnamese force of some three to five battalions yesterday overwhelmed a Lao Army battalion defending the depopulated town of Saravane and forced it to withdraw westward. The size of the Communist force tends to confirm earlier indications that new enemy units--probably elements of the 2nd Division--are moving into south Laos for a dry season offensive. Two irregular task forces are still keeping the enemy off balance along the northern edge of the Bolovens Plateau, but enemy resistance has been increasing during the past few days.

If units of the North Vietnamese force now around Saravane turn south, they could pose a significant threat to the government's ability to operate in the Bolovens area.

In the north, major troop deployments from North Vietnam into the area of the Plaine des Jarres now appear complete. Since the movement began in mid-October, more than 5,000 and possibly over 10,000 troops have been sent into north Laos. Pilots and ground observers have reported improvements in the North Vietnamese road net east of the Plaine during the past week, and aerial observers believe that a new road now links Route 7 in the north with Route 4 in the south. If true it would permit supplies to be trucked along the eastern edges of the Plaine. In addition, the Communists are improving Route 72, a main road between the North Vietnamese border and the southern Plaine.

The North Vietnamese thus appear to have set the stage for renewed action in the north.

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010200070001-6

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010200070001-6

CAMBODIA

Key government officials have now joined civilian critics in blaming Lon Nol for the collapse of the Chenla II operation.

50X1

There is also new evidence that Lon Nol's special relationship with Sirik Matak has deteriorated. Matak recently had a cordial meeting with In Tam, the energetic opposition leader, at which Matak stated that he was "incapable" of continuing his present association with Lon Nol.

Matak may be upset by the fact that, contrary to their "understanding," Lon Nol has again assumed the burden of running the government. Matak may be trying to dissociate himself from what increasingly appears to many in Phnom Penh as a bankrupt leadership.

Any move to oust Lon Nol or shift him to an honorific post will need the backing of the military. There is still little information on how the military leaders are reacting to recent reverses, but some will undoubtedly cite Lon Nol's excessive control over battlefield tactics as a major factor. Some military leaders apparently believe Lon Nol is overly optimistic in his military planning.

50X1

(continued)

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010200070001-6

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010200070001-6

In any case, as the prime mover behind the Chenla II offensive, Lon Nol could hardly escape blame for its failure. Nor is it surprising that the criticisms of him which precipitated the political crisis last spring would surface again. The stage has now been set for another period of political maneuvering in Phnom Penh, but it is far from certain that the disparate elements who are unhappy with Lon Nol can agree on a successor.

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010200070001-6

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010200070001-6

JAPAN - NORTH VIETNAM

50X1

50X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010200070001-6

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010200070001-6

JAPAN

The over-all Japanese trade surplus this year could easily exceed $7 billion, the largest recorded by any country in the last two decades. Despite the US surcharge and appreciation of the yen, the number of export letters of credit opened last month--a leading indicator of exports--was up 26 percent over the November 1970 level. Actual exports to the US are reported to have been 22 percent higher than during November 1970. Meanwhile, imports continue to increase only slowly because of the country's economic slowdown.

According to press reports, Tokyo is becoming increasingly concerned that its continued export surge could lead to foreign demands for more export restraints.

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010200070001-6

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010200070001-6

NOTES

[redacted] 50X1

Indochina: During October and November, 24 infiltration groups and seven small special-purpose groups were detected at way-stations in southern North Vietnam and adjacent areas of Laos. Analysis of the identification numbers of the new groups suggests that an additional 34 groups started south but have not been detected thus far. Although the evidence available this year is less complete than in the past, we can estimate with a fair degree of confidence that troop movement so far this season is probably between 25,000 and 32,000 personnel. Approximately 36,000 men departed North Vietnam in the same period last year.

Jordan-Fedayeen-Syria: [redacted] 50X1 50X1

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010200070001-6

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010200070001-6

Top Secret

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010200070001-6